This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

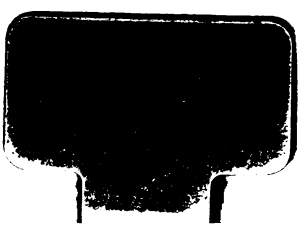
+ *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
+ *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
+ *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
+ *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at `http://books.google.com/`

250.g.
85.

600069965+



DO YOU GIVE IT UP?

A Collection

OF THE

MOST AMUSING CONUNDRUMS, RIDDLES, ETC.

OF THE DAY.

My first denotes company;
My second shuns company;
My third assembles company;
And my whole amuses company.

LONDON:
LOCKWOOD & CO., STATIONERS' HALL COURT.
MDCCCLXI.

250. g. 85.

LONDON:

T. HARRILD, PRINTER, SHOE LANE,

FLEET STREET.

BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

COMPILER'S PREFACE.

SEVERAL fair cousins having joined in preferring the request to me, "Do write us out a few riddles?" I tried to gratify them, and now venture to place the result of my efforts before the public.

No originality or invention in contriving these conundrums and riddles is claimed, as I have heard or had proposed to me all that are here brought together; and although many may recognize some old acquaintances, it is presumed that novelties enough for all may be found in this collection.

DO YOU GIVE IT UP?

My first denotes company,
My second shuns company,
My third assembles company,
My whole amuses company.

Co-nun-drum (*conundrum*).

My first a baby does when you pinch it,
My second a lady says when she does not mean it,
My third exists and no one e'er has seen it,
My whole contains the world's best half within it.

Cri-no-line (*crinoline*).

Why are dogs and cats like schoolmasters and their pupils?

Because one is of the canine (*caning*), *and the other of the feline* (*feeling*) *species.*

If a pig had to build himself a house, how would he do it?

He would tie a knot in his tail, and then he would have a pigsty (*pig's-tie*).

What is worse than raining cats and dogs?

Hailing cabs and omnibuses.

What is that which goes from London to Brighton without moving?

The road.

Why is love like a potato?

Because it shoots from the eyes and grows less by paring (pairing).

At what place in England, and when, was Napoleon jealous of the Empress?

When he saw her in the Bricklayer's Arms (Station).

My first I hope you are,
My second I see you are,
And my whole you always shall be.

Well-come (welcome).

Why is an old hen walking towards Whitehall like the Gunpowder Plot?

Because it is a foul (fowl) proceeding towards Parliament.

How many insects does it take to make a landlord?

Ten-ants (tenants).

My first the men will sometimes take
Entirely for my second's sake,
My whole they vainly all declare
Is more than mortal man can bear.

Miss-fortune (misfortune).

Amongst novelties why is a dog's tail the greatest?

Did you ever see it before?

Which would you soonest have, a five-pound note or five sovereigns?

A five-pound note, for when you put it in your pocket you double it, and when you take it out you see it in creases.

Why is a wainscotted room like a reprieve?

Because it saves hanging.

Why are parish churches like ladies?

Because there is no living without them.

Why are pioneers sent before an army?

To ax (ask) the way.

My first is a bit of butter,
My next a bit of mutton,
My whole is a little matter
Not bigger than a button.

Button.

If I were to bite off the end of your nose, what would the laws of the land compel me to do?

To keep the piece (peace).

When do the teeth usurp the tongue's prerogative?

When they are chattering.

Why ought the stars to be the best astronomers?

Because they have studied (studded) the heavens ever since creation.

Who took in the first newspaper?

Cain; he took a Bell's Life (Abel's life).

Why are your feet like olden tales?

Because they are legends (leg ends).

When is salt butter like Irish children?

When it is made into little pats.

When is a lady past recovery?

When she is speechless.

I'm a word that is made of three vowels alone,
And is backward and forward the same;
Though I speak not a word, I make sentiment known,
And to beauty lay principal claim.

Eye.

What three words did Adam use when he introduced himself to Eve, and which read the same backwards and forwards?

Madam, I'm Adam.

What scent would a lady prefer who was going to marry a gentleman of the name of Richard?

Eau de Cologne (O Dick alone).

When is a turnpike like a dead dog's tail?

When it stops a waggon (wagging).

What tree pinches the Jews?

The juniper (Jew-nipper).

Twice ten are six of us,
Six are but three,
Nine are but four of us,
What can we be?
Would you know more of us,
I will tell you more—
Seven are but five of us,
Five are but four.

The number of letters contained in each numeral.

Why must a Yankee speculator be subject to water on the brain?

Because he always has a notion (an ocean) in his head.

Why is the letter A like twelve o'clock?

Because it is the middle of day.

Why are under-graduates like geese?

Because they live upon the commons, they are crammed, they are plucked, and when they are plucked they are regularly sold.

What do ladies look for when they go to church?

The hims (hymns).

To what church or chapel ought ladies to go who look for the "hims"?

A chapel of he's (ease).

Without my first you'd appear very strange;
My second you like to be;
My whole is what many a lady has worn
At a ball, an assembly, or play.

Nose-gay (nosegay).

What kind of book might a man wish his wife were like?

An almanack, for then he might have a new one every year.

Why would an owl not be pleased if you were to call him a partridge?

Because it would be making game of him.

What is the difference between the Emperor of Russia and a beggar?

One issues manifestoes, and the other manifests his toes.

Why is "Punch" like the aërial ship?

Because he has not made a trip yet, and never will.

When is a fowl's neck like a bell?

When it is rung for dinner (wrung).

What is the colour of storm and wind?

The storm arose (rose) and the wind blew (blue.)

A being with two feet has four feet and three feet, and only one voice; but its feet vary, and when it has most it is weakest.

A man in infancy crawls upon all fours, in manhood stands erect upon two feet, and in old age supports his tottering legs with a staff.

Why is an egg overdone like an egg underdone?

Because it is hardly done.

How many weeks are in the year?

Forty-six; the other six are only lent (Lent).

Why are sheep the most disreputable of animals?

In the first place, they are always on the turf; secondly, there are a great number of blacklegs amongst them; thirdly, they teach their young ones to gamble (gambol).

If you were my first, and I were my whole,
My second might go where it pleased;
For you'd be caressed, and I should be blessed,
And the rest of my life would be pleased.

Bridegroom.

How is it England and Russia govern the ocean?

Because Britannia rules the waves, and Russia the surfs (serfs).

What religion would a woman be if she changed her sex to man?

Heathen (*He then*).

Why are creditors like careful pilots?

Because they are always on the look-out.

What plant do ladies' tongues most resemble?

Scarlet-runners.

Why is a piano like an onion?

Because it smell odious (*it's melodious*).

What shape is a kiss?

Elliptical (*a lip tickle*).

Safe on a fair one's arm my first may rest
And raise no tumult in a husband's breast,
To those who neither creep, nor run, nor fly,
The want of legs my second can supply.
My whole's a rival of the fairest toast,
And when I'm liked the best I suffer most.

Muf-fin.

Why is a shrimp like a member of Parliament?

Because he has an M.P. at the end of his name.

Why are two young ladies kissing each other an emblem of Christianity?

Because they are doing unto each other as they would men should do unto them.

What Bishop on the Bench gets the most sleep?

The Bishop of London, for he goes to bed a Tait (at eight) at night, and gets up a Tait (at eight) in the morning.

What is the difference between a fowl with one wing and one with two.

A mere matter of opinion (a pinion).

Why is a man writing a play-bill like a water-fowl?

Because he's a puffin (puffing).

When my first is broken
It stands in need of my second;
My third makes part of every lady's dress.

Rib-band.

Why is the letter N like a pig?

Because it makes a sty nasty.

Where are we most likely to find the sky blue?

The nearer we go to the Milky Way.

Why are the bars of a convent like a blacksmith's apron?

Because they keep off the sparks.

Why should a quill pen never be used for inditing secret matter?

Because it is apt to split.

When may money be said to be damp?

When it is due (dew) in the morning, and missed (mist) in the evening.

When is love deformed?

When it is all on one side.

My first is on the threshold of a door,
My second an article of food,
My third what none can do without,
My whole one of the United States?

Mat-rye-money (matrimony).

Why is conscience like the check-string in a carriage?

Because it is an inward pull on the outward man.

Why is a short man kissing a tall woman like an Irishman going up Vesuvius?

He is trying to get to the mouth of the crater (creature).

Why is a four-quart measure like a side-saddle?

Because it holds a gal on (a gallon).

Why is a cross old bachelor like a poem on marriage?

Because he is averse (a verse) to matrimony.

Why is the English grammar like the gout?

Because it is torture (taught you).

What pupil gets most punishment?

The pupil of the eye, for it is continually under the lash.

My first denotes a brilliant place,
Where belles and jewels shine;
My next transports the merchant's stores,
Or produce of the mine;
Sweet pleasures in my whole abound
Apart from worldly strife,
By nymphs and swains I'm always found
The happiest part of life.

Courtship.

What is that which must stand before it can sit?

An M.P.

What is the difference between a lady and her looking-glass?

One talks without reflecting, the other reflects without talking.

Those who have me not, do not wish for me;
Those who have me, do not wish to lose me;
Those who gain me, have me no longer.

Law-suit.

Why is a laundress the greatest traveller in the world?

Because she is constantly crossing the line, and going from pole to pole.

Why is Jenny Lind like a good mutton-chop?

Because she is neither greasy (Grisi) nor all bony (Alboni).

Why are very old people necessarily prolix and tedious.

Because they dilate (die late).

Where is happiness always to be found?

In the dictionary.

Why should a tailor have all sorts of filth thrown to him?

Because he is a common sewer.

Before a circle let appear,
Twice twenty-five and five in rear,
One-fifth of eight join, if you can,
And then you'll form what conquers man.

Love.

We are little airy creatures,
All of different voice and features;
One of us in glass is set,
Another you will find in jet,
Another you will see in tin,
And a fourth a box within;
But if the last you do pursue,
It will never fly from you.

The vowels.

Why is a waiter like a race-horse?

Because he often runs for a plate.

What proof have we that King Charles wished to be beheaded?

Because they axed (asked) him whether he would or no.

Why is a conceited woman like a singing book?

Because she is full of airs.

Why is a dandy like a haunch of venison?

Because he's a bit of a buck.

When is a bank-note like wrought-iron?

When it is forged.

What English nobleman is most likely to swallow the alphabet?

Lord X-eater (Exeter).

Ever eating, ever cloying,
All-devouring, all-destroying,
Never finding full repast,
Till it eats the world at last.

Fire.

Why ought not people to starve in the deserts of Egypt?

On account of the sandwiches (sand which is) there.

But how came the sand which is there?

Because Ham was there, and his descendants mustered and bred (mustard and bread).

Why is cold cream like a good chaperon?

Because it keeps off the chaps.

What fish could be called in church without shocking the congregation?

John Doree and Ann Chovie (John Dory and Anchovy).

When was B the first letter of the alphabet?

In the days of Noah (No A).

Why are doctors' prescriptions good things to feed pigs on?

Because there are grains in them.

No rose can boast a livelier hue
Than I can when my birth is new.
Of shorter life than that sweet flower,
I bloom and fade within the hour,
Like Marplot, eager to reveal
The secret I would fain conceal.

A blush.

Why is a flea like a railway-engine?

Because it moves over sleepers.

Why was Blackstone like an Irish vegetable?

Because he was a common tatur (commentator).

If spectacles were christened, what classical name should they receive?

Eusebius (You see by us).

Why is it reasonable to suppose that tight-rope dancers are in general great favourites with the public?

Because their performance is always en-cored (on cord).

If you have a son going up for a competitive examination, why should he study the letter P?

Because it can make an ass pass (P-ass).

The beginning of eternity,
The end of time and space,
The beginning of every end,
And the end of every race.

Letter E.

Why is the Emperor of Russia like a hungry schoolboy on Christmas-day?

Because he's confounded hungry (Hungary), and longs for Turkey.

Why does a duck put its head under water?

For divers reasons (divers)

Why does he take it out?

For sundry reasons (sun dry.)

Why is an oyster a practical anomaly?

Because it has a beard without a chin, and you take him from his bed before you tuck him in.

Why is a Bramah key like an hospital?

Because it is full of wards.

My first in great cities is oftentimes sold;
Clothed sometimes in silver, and sometimes
in gold.
My second a beast, the terror of men,
Who roars in a desert, and lives in a den.
My whole is a thing not now very common,
'Tis something between a horse and a woman.

Pil-lion.

What letters in the alphabet are most destructive to beauty?

D K (Decay).

Why was Bulwer more likely to get tired of novel-writing than Warren?

Because Bulwer wrote "Night and Morning," and Warren only "Now and Then."

Who was the first whistler, and what tune did he whistle?

The wind, "Over the hills and far away."

When is it dangerous to walk in the fields?

When the hedges are shooting.

When is it dangerous to walk by the water-side?

When the bulrush (bull rushes) is out.

What would eggs be if you put an H before them?

Exasperated (eggs aspirated).

If a man were to fall from the Monument, what would he fall against?

His inclination.

My first if you do you'll increase,
My second will keep you from heaven;
My third, such is human caprice,
Very seldom is taken when given.

Ad-vice.

Why is a dog like a tattling person?

Because he is a tail (tale) bearer.

What is that which is a cat, is like a cat, and is yet not a cat?

A kitten.

Why are three couples going to be married, like penny trumpets?

Because they go to, to, to (two, two, two).

When is a blind man like a wig?

When he is curled (cur-led).

What perfume is most injurious to beauty?

The essence of thyme (time).

Why are young ladies' affections always doubtful?

Because they are only mis-givings.

Why is a mile-stone a very unsociable fellow?

Because you never see two together.

5 1/1

My whole is a noun of plural number,
Devoid of ease and peaceful slumber;
But add to it the letter S,
And, wondrous metamorphosis!
Plural is plural now no more,
And sweet what bitter was before.

Cares—caress.

Keep me clean, and I am like everybody; scratch me on the back, and I am like nobody?

A looking-glass.

Why are beggars like fishermen and shepherds?

Because they live by hook and by crook.

Why is a naughty boy like a penny stamp?

Because he is licked and put in the corner.

My first two letters a man,
My first three letters a woman,
My first four a great man,
And my whole a great woman.

He, her, hero, heroine (heroine).

Which is the smallest bridge in the world?

The bridge of the nose.

Why did the accession of Victoria throw a greater damp over England than the death of King William?

Because the King was only mist (missed), but the Queen was raining (reigning).

Which is the only wig that a barber cannot make?
An ear-wig.

Why is a cabbage run to seed like a lover?
Because it has lost its heart.

If John the footman were to kiss Mary the housemaid, to what place of punishment would she consign him?

A dungeon (*"adone, John!"*)

My first is of illustrious line,
Of beauteous form and face divine;
Which when my second does assail,
Both form and beauty then do fail;
My whole's an arduous task to do,
With wives who naughty ways pursue.

Man-age.

Why is Westminster Abbey like the fender?
Because it contains the ashes of the grate (*great*).

What game is like a bustle?
Backgammon.

Why is a miser like a man with a short memory?
Because he is always for getting (*forgetting*).

Why is a Jew in a fever like a diamond ring?
Because he is a jewel (*Jew ill*).

Why is it better to be burnt to death than to be beheaded?

Because a hot stake is better than a cold chop.

My first will give a good estate,
The next is but an humble fate,
My whole will something proper make
To those whom faithless hearts forsake.

Wil-low.

If a Frenchman was to fall into a tub of grease, what English word might he utter to show his deplorable state?

Indefatigable (*in de fat I gabble*).

Which is the most extravagant of all coats?

A waste coat (*waistcoat*).

Which of the seven wonders of the world is a locomotive-engine like?

Colossus (*coal-osses*) *of Rhodes* (*roads*).

Why is a blind man like a water-pipe?

Because he is generally led (*lead*).

Who is the greatest dandy of the ocean?

The swell of the sea.

Why does a sculptor die a horrible death?

Because he makes faces and busts (*bursts*).

When is a nose not a nose?

When it is a little radish (*reddish*).

My first is a ruffian that riots in blood;
My second has a rough coat, and is son of the wood;
My whole is a phantom that scares you by night,
When the tapers burn blue and the moon gives pale light.

Bug-bear.

With what two animals do you always go to bed?

Two calves.

Why is the cook at the Palace like a man sitting on the top of St. Paul's?

Because both are in a high cool and airy (culinary) situation.

Why would a sixth sense be a bore?

Because it would be a nuisance (new sense).

It's pretty, it's useful in various ways,
Though by it men often shorten their days;
Take one letter from it, and then 'twill appear
What young men are fond of every day in the year;
Take two letters from it, and then, without doubt,
You will be what remains if you can't find it out.

Glass—lass—ass.

What famous battle was fought in a most vulgar place?

Agincourt (a gin court).

Why is a nail far in like an old man?

Because it is infirm (in firm).

What English word has all the vowels following each other?

Facetiously (*a e i o u y*).

Why are old maids going to be married like convicts?

Because they go off in transports.

What regiment was Adam in?

The Buffs.

When is a bonnet not a bonnet?

When it becomes a pretty woman.

My first is irrational,
My second is rational,
My third mechanical,
And my whole scientific.

Horse-man-ship (*horsemanship*).

When is a man likely to be completely sewed up?

When he feels a stitch in his side.

Why is it wrong to speak the truth?

Because there is sin in sincerity.

Why is an Israelite named William Solomon similar to a public festival?

Because he is a jubilee (*Jew Billy*).

Why is your nose in the middle of your face?

Because it is the centre (*scenter*).

Why is it dangerous to go into a cathedral?

Because there is a great cannon (canon) in the desk, a minor cannon (canon) in the stall, and the bishop is charging the congregation.

One word of four letters:
If you transpose what lasses wear,
'Twill plainly show what bad ones are;
Again, if you transpose the same,
You'll see an ancient Hebrew name;
Change it again, and it will show
What all on earth desire to do;
Transpose the letters yet again,
What bad men are you'll then explain.

Veil—vile—Levi—live—evil.

What fruit kept best in the ark?

The preserved pears (pairs).

Why are your nose and your chin always at variance?

Because so many words pass between them.

What trade is like the sun?

A tanner.

Why should you be wide awake on the railroad?

Because the train goes over sleepers.

What Christian name reads both ways the same?

Hannah.

What ladies with a grace may feign,
And when you dust looks well again;
What many a man who has a wife
Submits to for a quiet life.

Anything.

Why is Ireland likely to become very rich?
Because its capital is always doubling (Dublin).

Why should the number 288 never be named before ladiès?

Because it is too gross (two gross).

Why have wine and cake very bad morals?

Because one is always drunk, and the other is often tipsy.

My first is a thing, though not very bewitching,
Is of infinite use when placed in the kitchen,
My second's a song, which though a strange thing,
No one person living could ever yet sing,
My whole is a man who has a place in the city,
But the last of his race you'd apply to for pity.

Jack-catch.

Why is a pretty woman like a lock?
Because she is a thing to a door (adore).

What is the difference between a good and a bad oyster?

One is a native and the other is a settler.

If the eyes and nose were going to run a race which would win?

The eyes, for the nose would be blown, while the eyes would run till they dropped.

Why should people who wish to live a peaceable life never go to small evening dancing parties?

Because hops produce great bitterness.

If Cupid insists upon coming to a lady's door, how would she like him to come?

With a ring, but not without a rap.

What flowers are there between a lady's nose and chin?

Tulips (two lips).

Found long ago, yet made to-day,
I'm most in use when people sleep,
What few would wish to give away,
Nor any one desire to keep.

Bed.

Why is an orange like a church steeple?

Because we have a peal (peel) from it.

When is the first walking-stick mentioned?

When Eve presented Adam with a little cane (Cain).

A man bought two fishes, but on taking them home found he had got three. How was this?

He had two, and one smelt.

Why are there no horses in the Isle of Wight?

Because the inhabitants prefer cows (Cowes) to ride (Ryde).

Why is a female of the canine species suckling her whelps like a philosopher's principle?

Because she is a dogma (dog ma).

Why is a blush like a little girl?

Because it becomes a woman.

My first is a carriage in England that's seen,
But in foreign parts more does abound,
In my second we'll find that few have not been,
If we search all the country around,
My whole's in position as low as can be,
Yet the poor seldom have me you plainly will see.

Car-pet (Carpet.)

Why is an acting magistrate like freezing water?

Justice (just ice).

Why is a man who carries a watch invariably too late for his appointments?

Because he is always behind time.

Where did Charles the First's executioner dine, and what did he take?

He took a chop at the King's Head.

What old bird is most like a musical instrument?

A peahen of forty (pianoforte).

Why should a gouty man make his will?

To have his legatees (leg at ease).

My first in music forms a graceful part;
My next the Cossack whirls with dextrous art;
My whole's a bard whose well known name,
Will live for ever in the rolls of fame.

Shake-speare.

Why is a man giving alms to a beggar like a cart-horse?

Because he stops at woh (woe).

When do sheep become stationery?

When they are turned into pens.

If Old Nick was to lose his tail, where should he go to supply the deficiency?

To a gin palace, because there bad spirits are retailed.

If an old woman with a red cloak were to overtake a fierce ram in a narrow lane, what transformation would take place?

The ram would turn to butter (butt her), the old woman into a scarlet-runner.

What man had no father?

Joshua the son of Nun (none).

Why is a clever detective like a precocious genius?
Because he possesses great quickness of apprehension.

I take the lead in government, yet have no part in law; I terminate every undertaking, yet am never in action; and though never wanting in guineas, am always out of cash?
The letter G.

Why can we deny that the island where Robinson Crusoe landed was uninhabited?
Because he found a great swell on the beach, and a little cove running up.

Why is the letter D like a squalling child?
Because it makes ma mad.

What letter makes most noise in a dairy?
The letter S, because it makes cream scream.

Traverse the world from pole to pole,
You'll find my first esteemed by all;
My second is an occupation
That's useful found in every nation;
Connect the two, and you'll acquire
An author whom we much admire.
Gold-smith.

Why is a child with a cold in its head like a winter's night?
Because it blows it snows (it blows its nose).

Why is a lady's complexion like a younger son?

Because it is spoilt by the sun and air (son and heir).

Why is a tedious story-teller like the Thames Tunnel?

Because he is a great bore.

Why is a man who keeps the toll at a bridge like a Jew?

Because he keeps the pass-over.

Why are two girls giggling like the wings of a chicken?

Because they have got a merry thought between them.

Why is a parasite like a pair of spectacles?

Because he magnifies small things.

My first is no disgrace to tell;
Without the second you cannot spell;
The third will help you to a wife,
To bless or curse you all your life.

Love-letter.

Always invisible, yet never out of sight?

Letter S (in visible).

What two animals had the least luggage in the ark?

The fox and the cock, for they only had a brush and comb between them.

How many young ladies will reach from London to Brighton, it being fifty miles?

Fifty, for a miss is as good as a mile.

Which is the fastest, heat or cold?

Heat, because you can catch a cold.

What must you add to nine to make six?

S, for IX *with* S *is* SIX.

Lose my first, and all fiddling is not worth a straw;
My second gives importance to physic and law,
Not to mention divines; but my whole cares for neither,
Eats fruit, and scares ladies in fine summer weather.

Earwig.

If an egg could speak, what preserve would it name?

Marmalade (*ma me laid*).

Why are the teeth like verbs?

Because they are regular, irregular, and defective.

Which is the only animal the Queen would not name to Prince Albert?

Reindeer (*reign dear*).

Why are ladies like churches?

There is no living without them;
There is many a spire (*aspire*) *to them;*
They are objects of adoration;
And they have a loud clapper in their upper story.

Why are lawyers like sawyers?

Because whichever way they work, down must come the dust.

My first is a domestic animal,
My second a part of speech,
My third is an article of the toilet,
And my whole is a tomb.

Cat-a-comb.

Why is a bustle like an historical novel?

Because it is fiction founded on fact.

Who first discontinued a newspaper?

Joshua, when he stopped the sun.

Why should not a teetotaler have a wife?

Because he cannot support her (sup porter).

If a gentleman wished to ask a lady to take one kind of wine, whilst he drank another, what two countries would he name?

Portugal, Isle of Wight (Port you gal? I'll have white).

Why is the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland like a person asking for the time?

He's as king (asking) for the time.

What colour is the grass when snow is upon it?

Invisible green.

'Twas whispered in heaven, 'twas muttered in hell,
And echo caught faintly the sound as it fell,
On the confines of the earth it was permitted to rest,
And the depths of the ocean its presence confessed.
'Twill be found in the sphere when 'tis even asunder,
It is seen in the lightning and heard in the thunder,
In the heaps of the miser 'tis hoarded with care,
But is sure to be lost by his prodigal heir.
It is given to man with his earliest breath,
It attends at his birth, and awaits him in death.
Without it the soldier, the sailor may roam,
But woe to the wretch that expels it from home.
In short, let it rest like a delicate flower,
But breathe on it softly, it dies in an hour.

Letter H.

Name me and you break me.

Silence.

My first is a preposition,
My second is a composition,
And my whole is an acquisition.

For-tune.

In describing a fire, what three authors would you name?

Dickens, Howitt (how it), Burns!

Why was the whale who swallowed Jonah like a successful hydropathic doctor?

Because he managed to get a good profit (prophet) out of the waters.

Why do ladies like looking in the moon?

Because there is a man in it.

When does a physician order a lady to eat a little child?

When he orders her to eat a little orphan (often).

Why should the letter S enable milliners and tailors to dispense with their tools?

Because it makes needles needless.

How do you know that the Queen approves of the penny postage?

Because she gives her countenance to it.

My first is colourless and dark,
My second's always in the park;
If you're my whole you then may know,
I think your conduct but so-so.

Blackguard.

Why is Rowland Hill giving sovereigns to his children like the rising sun?

Because he tips the little hills with gold.

My second is found in every hedge, as well as every tree,
And when poor schoolboys act amiss, it often is their fee;
My first is always wicked, yet ne'er committed sin,
My whole for my first is fitted, composed of brass and tin.

Candlestick.

Why is a looking-glass like a dissatisfied and ungrateful acquaintance?

Because though you may load its back with silver it will always reflect upon you.

Why is a cow's tail like a swan's bosom?

Because it grows down.

My first informs me time has wingèd feet;
My second keeps our gardens neat;
My whole's a safe retreat to those
Who guard our homes from midnight foes.

Watch-box.

Why is a person putting his father into a sack like a person on his way to an Eastern city?

Because he is going to Bagdad (*bag dad*).

Why is a glass-blower the most likely to set the alphabet in full gallop?

Because he makes a D canter (*decanter*).

Why is my hat like a giblet-pie?

Because it has a goose's head inside.

Why is a boy ill like a small church?

Because he is a chapel (*chap ill*).

My first is often heard in a playhouse;
My second gives name to a faction;
My whole contains the annals of all nations.

His-tory.

What small animal is turned into a large one by being beheaded?

Fox—ox.

By well employing my second,
You will never regret my first.

Past-time.

When is a pointer like a ploughshare?

When he is used to part ridges (partridges).

What word of one syllable, if you take two letters from it, remains a word of two syllables?

Plague—ague.

How would a witch's servant announce her carriage?

Your brougham (broom) is at the door.

A blind man took something from the breakfast-table, and recovered his sight—what was it?

He took a teacup and saucer (saw sir).

Why are fond mothers like anchors?

Because they are attached to their buoys (boys).

My first is a carriage of war;
In my second great treasures are found;
My whole's used by many a fair,
Though it don't to their credit redound?

Car-mine.

Why do young ladies in love like the circus?

Because they have an itching for the ring.

What letter in the alphabet is necessary to make a shoe?
The last.

Why is a man playing at blind man's buff like a compassionate man?
Because he feels for a fellow-creature.

Why is a short negro like a white man?
Because he is not a tall black.

Why is a soldier like a petted child?
He is a son of ma's (Mars).

Ye sages profound, for enigmas renown'd,
Though I never exist in the light,
In the day I am found, in the dark do abound,
But never am seen in the night?
Letter D.

Why is St. Paul's Cathedral like a bird's nest?
Because it was built by a Wren.

Why are the poker, shovel, and tongs, like the order of the Garter?
Because they are appendages to the great (grate).

If the sun could speak, what would it say to a budding rose?
You be blowed (blown).

Why did Lord Byron never wear a wig?
Because he was celebrated for his coarse hair (Corsair).

How many legs has a horse?
Ten, two fores (fours) and two behind.

A lady asked a gentleman how old he was?

He answered, "My age is what you do in everything" (XL).

My first softens every care;
My second implies diminution;
But I would not be my whole for the world.

Friend-less.

What letter in the alphabet is of most use to a deaf woman?

A, because it makes her, hear.

What is that which gives a cold, cures a cold, and pays the doctor's bill?

A draught (*draft*).

There is a thing that was three weeks old, when Adam was no more,
This thing it was but four weeks old, when Adam was fourscore.

The moon.

Why are conundrums like monkeys?

They are far-fetched and troublesome.

My first is what all mortals ought to do;
My second is what all mortals have done;
And my whole is the result of my first.

Love-err (*lover*).

Which is the heaviest horse in the world?

A led horse (*lead*).

Why is the root of the tongue like a dejected man?

Because it is down in the mouth.

If you met a pig in tears, what animal's name might you say to it?

Pork, you pine (porcupine).

Why is an ill-bred man like lightning?

Because he does not know how to conduct himself.

What belongs to yourself, and is used by everybody more than yourself?

Your name.

What was Joan of Arc made of?

Made (maid) of Orleans.

I view the world in little space,
Am always ranging and changing place;
No food I eat, but by my power,
Procure what all the world devour?

Sun.

Legs I have got, but seldom walk;
I backbite all, but never talk?

A flea.

Why are the compounders of the estimates like woodcocks?

Because they bore the Commons with a long bill.

What is the difference between form and ceremony?

You sit upon one, and stand on the other.

What is the difference between an engine-driver and a schoolmaster?

One minds the train, and the other trains the mind.

Why are poultry the most profitable things a farmer can keep?

Because for every grain they give a peck.

At two days old good Latin I speak,
Tho' for it I ne'er went to school;
Arms I have three, which come out of my back,
And in yellow I'm dressed like a fool.

A sovereign (arms of England, Scotland, and Ireland).

When did Moses sleep five in a bed?

When he slept with his four (fore) fathers.

What part of speech is a kiss?

A conjunction.

Why is a pig with a curly tail like the ghost in Hamlet?

Because he could a tail (tale) unfold.

What heavenly thing and what earthly thing does a rainy day have the same influence over?

The sun, and your boots, for it takes the shine out of both.

Why are the Queen's poultry the most quarrelsome of any?

Because they are Vic.'s hens (vixens).

Why are temperance societies a bar to friendship?

Because they prevent shaking (shaky) hands.

My first is what we ought to do,
My second, what we all have done,
And my whole the result of my first.

Pray-err (Prayer).

What English word is that which contains three vowels and three syllables in five letters?

In-di-a (India).

Why does a Jew prefer mutton to venison?

Because he likes that which is cheap (sheep) better than that which is dear (deer).

Why is a bad hunter like a good-natured man?

Because he is slow to take a fence (offence).

If the upper part of the Tower was burnt down, what two names in English history would the question of repairing it suggest?

What tiler will roof us (Wat Tyler, Will Rufus).

Two animals, each wearing horns,
Together must be joined;
And these combined in tailors' shops
You constantly will find.

Buck-ram (Buckram).

What is the first record we have of beef-tea?

When Henry VIII. dissolved the Pope's Bull.

What does the Queen take her pills in?

In cyder (inside her).

Why is a rat that has inked its side like a thoughtless man?

Because he's ink on side rat (inconsiderate).

What is the difference between me and my tailor now that I am in prison at his suit?

I have let him in, and he won't let me out.

Why is marrying a second time like smelling salts?

Because it's rewiving (reviving).

What man ate a street, and where?

Henry ate a (Henrietta) Street in Covent Garden.

My first relieves each pain and care,
My second we an honour deem;
My third is found in every home,
Both rich and poor, tho' strange it seem.

Bed-post.

What is Majesty deprived of its externals?

A jest (M—a jest—y).

Why are people born deaf the most virtuous of beings?

Because they never erred (heard).

If all the oceans were dried up, what would Neptune do?

He would not have a notion (an ocean).

What is the difference between a young lady and a hat?
One has feeling and the other is felt.

My first is equality,
My second is inferiority,
My whole is superiority.

Matchless.

In what manner did Lord Hardinge pay off the Sikhs?
By a cheque (check) on the bank of the Sutledge.

What were the odds at Aliwal?
They were six (Sikhs) and we one (won).

Why is a dead doctor like a dead duck?
Because they have both done quacking.

Why is A like a honeysuckle?
Because a bee (B) follows it.

Why are married people like a pair of shears?
Because they are so joined that they cannot be separated without trouble, they often move in opposite directions, yet always punish any one who comes between them.

My first is a dirty little brute,
My second's at the end on't,
My third, like many an honest man,
Is on a fool dependent.

Pig-tail.

Why are the fixed stars like wicked old men?
Because they sin-till-late (scintillate).

The name of a fish not very uncommon,
The pride and the boast of a young married woman.

Her-ring.

Why is a man in search of the philosopher's stone like Neptune?

He is sea-king (seeking) what never was.

Why are you like nineteen shillings?

Because you are under a sovereign.

If you wanted to buy a fiddle cheap, where would you go?

To a chemist's, and buy some drugs, as they would give you a violin (phial in).

We hear of the mother of pearl, who was the father?

The venerable bead (Bede).

Why is a married man without any children like a bald man?

Because he has no hair (heir) apparent.

Why is an ironmonger the most likely person to make the alphabet quarrel?

Because he makes A poke R (a poker) and shove L (shovel).

What great astronomer is like Venus's chariot?

Herschel (her shell).

If a tree fell against your window and broke it, what would the window say to the tree?

Tree-mend-us (tremendous).

When would a farmer have the best opportunity of overlooking his pigs?

When he has a sty in his eye.

What Tory do the Whigs most want on their side?

Vic-tory (*Victory*).

Why is law like a flight of rockets?

Because there is great expense of powder, the cases are well got up, the reports are excellent, but the sticks (*clients*) *are sure to come to the ground.*

What song did the little dog sing when he was blown off the chain-pier of Brighton?

My barque (*bark*) *is on the sea.*

A hundred and one by fifty divide,
And next let a cypher be duly applied;
And if the result you should rightly divine,
You will find that the whole makes but one out of nine.

CI, CLI, CLIO (*Clio, one of the nine Muses*).

How is it that the Liturgy of the Church of England encourages polygamy?

Because it enjoins you to take four (*for*) *richer, four* (*for*) *poorer, four* (*for*) *better, four* (*for*) *worse.*

Why is a racehorse like a lollypop?

The more you lick it the faster it goes.

Why are Englishmen bad naturalists?

Because the Pope sent them a bull, and they thought it a boar (bore).

What moral sentence does a weathercock suggest?

It is a vain (vane) thing to aspire (a spire).

Why is a dog's tail like the heart of a tree?

Because it is furthest from the bark.

My first does affliction denote,
Which my second was born to endure;
And my whole is the best antidote
That affliction can soften and cure?

Wo-man.

What is most like a cock-robin (cock robbing)?

A hen stealing.

If an ungrateful man's wife fell overboard, what letter would he exclaim?

Letter B (let her be).

Why is a beehive like a bad potatoe?

A beehive is a beeholder, and a beholder is a spectator, and a specked tater is a bad tater.

What is that no one wishes to have, and yet no one wishes to lose?

A bald head.

Why is a hen sitting across a gate like a halfpenny?

Because there is a head on one side and a tail on the other.

Why should children of robbers be burnt?

Because their pa steals (they're pastiles).

My first is myself in a short little word;
My second's a puppet, and you are my third.

I-dol.

Why was the elephant the last animal that entered the ark?

Because he stopped behind to pack up his trunk.

Why was George the Fourth on the sofa like buttered toast?

He was greasy (*G. R. easy*).

Why is hot bread like a caterpillar?

Because it is the grub that makes the butter fly.

Why do fashionable ladies make the most economical housekeepers?

Because they make a great bustle about a little waste (*waist*).

My first has oft a hero borne,
While fettered captives round him mourn;
The next may be a dog or bird,
Which often sits upon my whole.

Car-pet.

What is that thing, and the name of a bird, which if we had not we should die?

A swallow.

In a railway accident, what is better than presence of mind?

Absence of body.

Why is coffee like an axe with a dull edge?

Because it must be ground before it is used.

What is it we all frequently say we will do, and no one has ever yet done?

Stop a minute.

Why is a sparrow like India-rubber?

Because he is a gutter percher (gutta-percha).

My first I adore,
My second I renounce,
And celebrate my whole.

Christ-mas (mass).

The Duke of Wellington never dotted his i's; if the i's could speak, what ancient author would they name?

Herodotus (Hero, dot us).

Why is the point of a driver's stick like Buckinghamshire?

Because it runs into oxen (Oxon) and hurts (Herts).

Why is it impossible for a man to boil his father thoroughly?

Because he can only be par-boiled (pa boiled).

What is the difference between a good governess and a bad one?

One teaches miss, and the other misteaches.

Why is a printing-press like the forbidden fruit?

Because from it springs the knowledge of good and evil.

My first is deep reflection, my second not so much, and my whole is none at all.

Thoughtless.

Why is a man putting on his boot, like one with three legs?

Because he has a leg to boot.

What young ladies won the battle of Salamis?

The Miss Tocles (Themistocles).

Why was Cooper, the assassin at Hounslow, the most blood-thirsty villain that ever lived?

He killed A 147 policemen daily (Daly).

Spell "blind pig" with two letters.

P—g, pig without an eye (I).

Why are the Governments of Algiers and Malta as different as light and darkness?

Because one was governed by days (Deys) and the other by nights (Knights).

When Louis Philippe left France, which lost most, the king or the people?

The king lost a crown and the people a sovereign.

What is the hardest key to turn?

A donkey.

My love for you will never know my first;
It will never be my second,
Although it will always be my whole?

End-less.

Why are opera-dancers like parricides?

Because they execute their pas.

Why is love like Irish poplin?

Because it is half stuff.

Why is a wet-nurse like Vulcan?

Because she is engaged to Venus (wean us).

If a bear was to go into a draper's shop, what would he require?

Muslin (muzzling).

When you stole my first,
I lost my second;
May you ever possess my whole?

Heart's-ease.

Why is the treadmill like a true convert?

Because its turning is the result of conviction.

Why is a stableman like a poet?

Because he is a cultivator of the muses (mewses).

You eat it, you drink it, deny who can;
It is sometimes a woman and sometimes a man?

A toast.

Which is the most wonderful animal in a farm-yard?
A pig, because he is killed first and cured afterwards.

Why are washerwomen the most unreasonable people?
Because they expect soft water when it rains hard.

Who are most likely to be sick of children?
Those who bring them up.

My first is always bitter to my second;
My third is both bitter and sweet?
Wo-man (woman).

Which sea would a man most like to be in on a wet day?
Adriatic (a dry attic).

Why are the judges always preceded by javelin-men?
Because they are about to charge the jury.

Why is an idle clergyman like England?
Because he expects every man to do his duty, and so does England.

What disorder excites the greatest compassion?
The small-pox, for the patient is generally pitied (pitted).

Why is Buckingham Palace the cheapest ever erected
Because it was built for one sovereign and finished for another.

Why have you a right to pick a painter's pocket?

Because he has picked yours (pictures).

My first I do, my second I do not;
My whole you are?

Love-ly (lie).

Why is divinity the easiest of the three learned professions?

Because it is easier to preach than to practice.

When your hair gets into disorder, what heathen deity should you name?

Comus (comb us).

Why is a man who squints like a needle that cannot be threaded?

Because his eye is defective.

Why are bankrupts more to be pitied than idiots?

Because bankrupts are broken, while idiots are only cracked.

Which is to be conceived the organ of drunkenness?

The barrel-organ.

Why was the first day of Adam's life the longest ever known?

Because it had no Eve.

Why are women the greatest thieves?

Because they crib their children, bone their stays, and steel their petticoats and buttons.

Why was Louis Philippe like a thorough wet day?

Because he rained (reigned) as long as he could, and then he mizzled.

Why is a virtuous goose like Cardinal Wiseman?

Because he is faithful to his proper gander (propaganda).

Why do little birds feel depressed early in a summer morning?

Because their bills are overdue (dew).

Why is the letter E amphibious?

Because it is found both in earth and water.

Why is it wrong to sit in the free seats in church?

Because you get good for nothing.

What is the most modest piece of furniture in a room?

A clock, because he always carries his hands before his face.

My first is a circle,
My second a cross,
If you meet with my whole
Look out for a toss.

Ox.

Who do children hate the most?

The mothers that bore them.

Why is a poor cat most likely to guess a riddle?

Because it is a needy puss (Œdipus).

When a man goes over to the Church of Rome, why does he not require so large a portmanteau?

Because he leaves Thirty-nine Articles behind him.

Who was the greatest chicken butcher according to Shakespeare?

Claudius, who did "murder most foul" (fowl).

When may a nobleman's property be said to be all feathers?

When his estates are all hen-tailed (entailed).

May my first never be lost in my second,
To prevent my enjoying my whole.

Friend-ship.

Why is brown more difficult to spell than green?

Because green is spelt with ease (ees).

By equal division, I think I am right,
The half of thirteen you will find to be eight.

XIII. ~~XIII~~ (VIII.)

Why should not gentlemen and ladies take Epsom salts?

Because they are intended for working people.

What number in French expresses a visit paid by a gentleman to his father's sister?

Soixante (Saw his aunt).

Why is it easy to break into an old man's house?

Because his gate (gait) is broken, and his locks are few.

Why have the Emperor and Empress of the French had less sleep than any one else?

Because they have only had one little Nap.

What is the difference between an accepted and rejected lover?

One kisses his mistress, and the other misses his kisses.

My first indispensable to a carriage;
My second I should not stand on if I wanted to be taller,
And the rest is often found in muddy streams.

Wheel, heel, eel.

What five names in early Scripture indicate the commencement of corporeal punishment?

Adam, Seth, Eve, Cain, Abel (*Adam, said Eve, cane Abel*).

Why are deaf persons like Cashmere shawls?

Because you cannot make them hear (here).

Why is your thumb when putting on a glove like eternity?

Because it is everlasting (*ever last in*).

What is the difference between a spendthrift and a pillow?

One is hard up and the other is soft down.

Why is a potatoe like a widow?

Because the better part of it is underground.

Why are there three objections to a glass of brandy?
Because there are three scruples to every dram.

Why is grass older than you?
Because it is past your age (pasturage).

When does a man shave himself with silver?
When he cuts off his hair (heir) with a shilling.

Why are fleas subject to insanity?
Because they generally die cracked.

Why does a young lady generally prefer her mother's fortune to her father's estate?
Because she prefers matrimony to patrimony.

When is a cockney nearest heaven?
When he is up on (upon) a lark.

Why is a man happier with two wives than one?
He may be happy with one, but gets transported with two.

What is the best way to keep a gentleman's affections?
Not to return them.

Why is a speech delivered on the deck of a man-of-war like a lady's necklace?
Because it is a deck oration (decoration).

Why is the letter W like scandal?
Because it makes ill will (ill-will).

In what colour should you keep a secret?

In violet (inviolate).

If our trade with China was suddenly stopped, what would become of Twining?

He would be whining (wining) for want of his T.

What is that which makes a profit by dividing that which supports it?

A ship.

Why is a fair like a lady's earring?

Because there is only one in the year (ear).

If a tree is cut down, why has it no reason to complain?

Because it is always axed (asked) before it is felled.

If I show my legs I lose my character.

Kit Cat (drawing).

What is the difference between a cow and an old chair?

One gives milk and the other gives whey (way).

Why is a pig in a drawing-room like a house on fire?

Because it ought to be put out.

Why is a horse the most miserable of animals?

Because its thoughts are daily on the rack.

Why are the London stones like pickpockets

Because they are always being taken up.

If a mercenary man where to ask a young lady to marry, what flower would he name?

Anemone (*any money*).

If you were going to kill a goose which could speak, what vegetable would he name?

Asparagus (*ah, spare a goose*).

When are we told that the Jews employed bread as the Egyptians did papyrus?

When Isaiah was told to take a great roll, and write on it with a pen.

Why are the volunteers like Lord Nelson?

Because the last thing he did was to die for his country, and that is about the last thing the volunteers will do.

Why is a preacher like the banks of a Scotch river?

Because he holds Forth (*forth*).

Can you spell brandy with three letters?

B, R, and Y.

Why is a stoker a good judge of punctuation?

Because he never puts a colon (*coal on*) *when he wants a full stop.*

When a person lands from a steamer, carpet-bag in hand, why may he be said to be an owner of the soil?

Because he has landed property.

Just under your nose, if you transpose it right,
A part of a foot will appear to your sight.

Chin (*inch*).

Why is a whisper like a forged bank-note?

Because it is uttered, but not a loud (*allowed*).

Why is a man who buys four apples for a penny, and gives one away, like a telescope?

Because he makes a farthing (*far thing*) *present.*

Why is a butler like a mountain?

Because he looks down on the valleys (*valets*).

Why is a great smoker like an author?

Because he is fond of a puff.

What is the difference between a donkey and a bee?

One gets whacks (*wax*) *and the other gets honey.*

Why is paying a debt and intending to pay it the same thing?

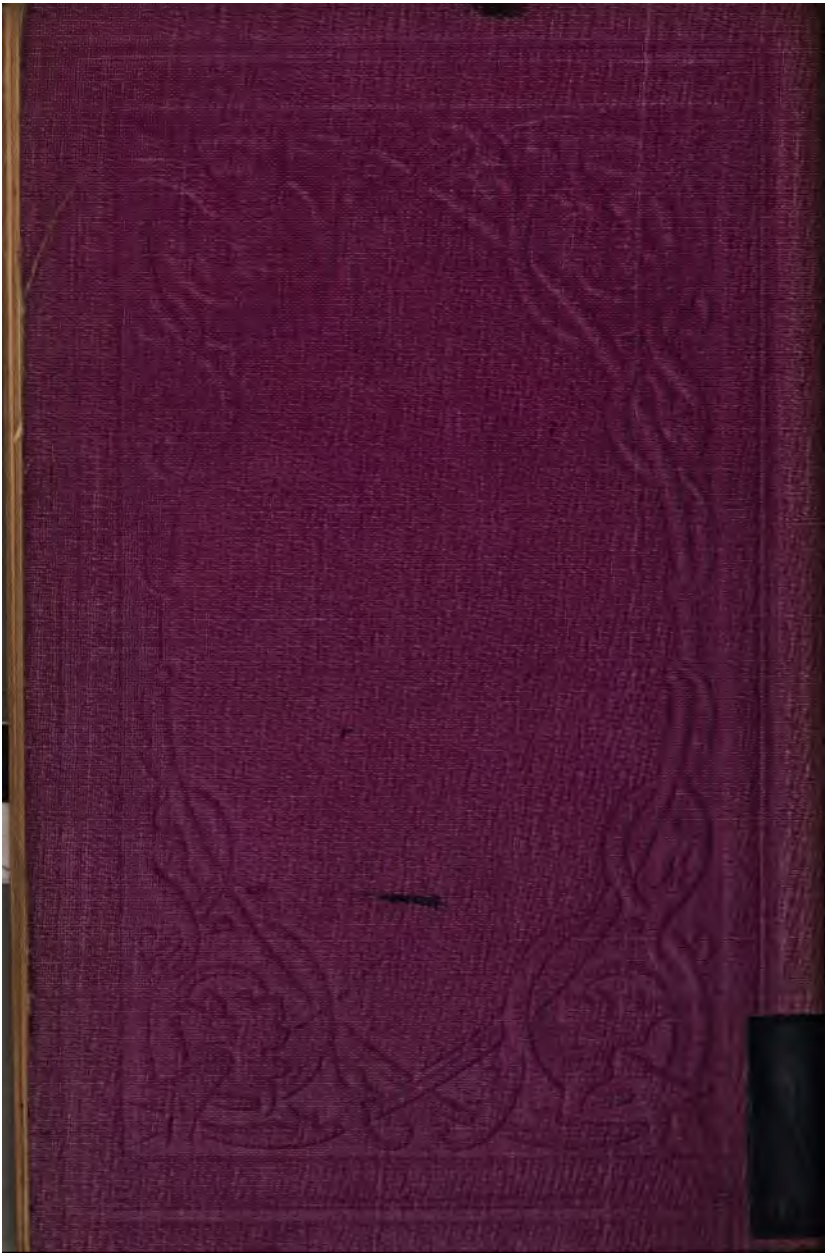
Because it is pay meant (*payment*).

Why is a charade like a fir-tree?

Because you may get a deal board (*bored*) *from it.*

Which are the most amusing letters in the alphabet?

U and I (*you and I*).

THE END.

London: Thomas Harrild, Printer, Shoe Lane, Fleet Street